IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient with a solid tumor, said method comprising administering to said patient ~~Use of~~ a first agent endowed with tumor ~~tumour~~ tropism in combination with a second anticancer agent ~~endowed~~ with affinity for said first agent ~~as active ingredients for the preparation of a medicament useful for the two-step perioperative therapy of solid tumours~~.

2. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, in which said first agent is administered during an intraoperative step via the locoregional ~~locoregenional~~ route and said second anticancer agent is administered during a postoperative step via the systemic route.

3. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, in which said first agent is ~~endowed with tumour tropism contains~~ avidin.

4. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, in which said first agent is avidin and said second anticancer agent is a biotinylated ~~compound bearing an~~ anticancer agent.

5. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, in which said second anticancer agent comprises an anticancer agent ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of radioisotopes, chemotherapeutic agents, toxins and anticancer cells.

6. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 5, in which said anticancer agent is a radioisotope ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of Fe-52, Mn-52m, Co-55, Cu-64, Ga-67, Ga-68, Tc-99m, In-111, I-123, I-125, I-131, P-32, Sc-47, Cu-67, Y-90, Pd-109, Ag-111, I-131, Pm-149, Re-186, Re-188, At-211, Pb-212, Bi-212[[,]] and Lu-177.

7. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 6, in which said radioisotope is Y-90 or Lu-177.

8. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 4, in which said first agent and said second anticancer agent are administered separately ~~the avidin and the biotin compound in said medicament are in separate containers~~.

9. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, in which said solid tumor ~~tumour~~ is selected from the group consisting of breast, pancreas, lung, pleural, peritoneal, cervico-facial, brain and bladder tumors ~~tumours~~.

10. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim [[3]]1, in which said first agent ~~avidin~~ is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, their polymeric derivatives and their derivatives with polyethylene glycol.

11. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, in which said first agent and second anticancer agent are administered by injection ~~medicament is suitable for injectable administration~~.

12. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 11, in which ~~the container of~~ said first agent is successively administered by syringe in ~~avidin is in the form of a syringe suitable for successive administrations of~~ precise volumes.

13. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 4, in which said first agent is administered ~~avidin is contained in a separate container~~ in a single dose.

14. (currently amended) The method ~~Use~~ according to claim 4, in which ~~the container of~~ said first agent is administered by spray ~~avidin is suitable for administration in the form of a spray~~.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method of diagnosing cancer in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient ~~Use of~~ a first agent endowed with tumor ~~tumour~~ tropism in combination with a second radiolabelled agent endowed with affinity for said first agent for diagnosis by determining ~~for the preparation of a diagnostic composition for~~ the pretherapeutic biodistribution of the tumor in the patient ~~of the medicament according to claim 1~~.

18. (new) A method of treating a patient with a solid tumor, said method comprising:

(a) administering to the patient, who is undergoing surgery, a first agent with affinity for the solid tumor directly to said solid tumor exposed during surgery or an anatomical area containing said solid tumor after surgical removal of the cancer and then

(b) systemically administering to the patient, who has undergone surgery, a second anticancer agent with affinity for said first agent;

thereby concentrating said second anticancer agent in the solid tumor or the anatomical area.

19. (new) The method according to claim 18, in which said solid tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast, pancreas, lung, pleural, peritoneal, cervico-facial, brain and bladder tumors.

20. (new) The method according to claim 18, in which said first agent is avidin and said second anticancer agent is a biotinylated and radiolabelled antibody.

21. (new) The method according to claim 18, in which said first agent is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, their polymeric derivatives and their derivatives with polyethylene glycol.

22. (new) The method according to claim 18, in which said second anticancer agent comprises an anticancer agent selected from the group consisting of radioisotopes, chemotherapeutic agents, toxins and anticancer cells.